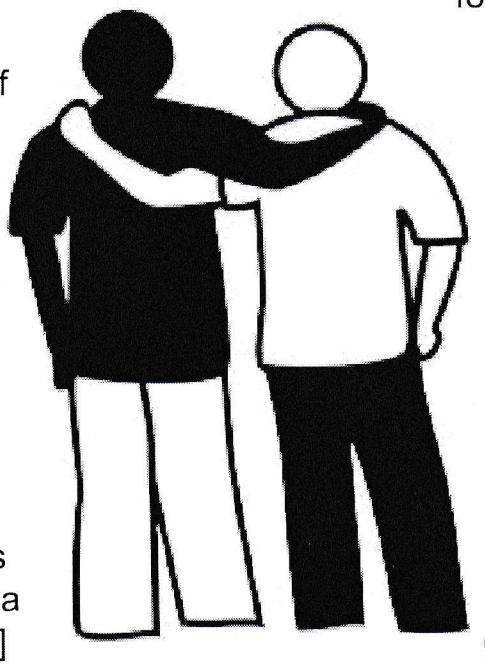
# YOU ARE ON THE RELIGION OF YOUR FRIEND!

Man's nature is that he is a social human being and during his/her life he will meet and befriend many people, these friends will comfort and accompany you throughout different obstacles and challenges in your life, they are happy when you are happy and sad when you are sad, your concern is theirs and vice versa, however in our time many Muslims have seemed to have lost sight of those who are good to befriend and those who are not.



The seriousness of keeping good friends and companions is such that a friend could lead you to paradise or to hellfire, Allah (swt) said, "Oh, woe to me! I wish I had not taken that one as a friend. He led me away from the remembrance after it had come to me. And ever is Satan, to man, a deserter."[EMQ 25:27-28]

For the Muslim youth, this concern is on the mind of every mother and father when they send their children to school or when their children leave the house, who are they going with? Who are their friends at college? What do they talk about? But this is not restricted to childr-

-en only; rather people of all ages need to be cautious in befriending and socialising with the wrong crowd. As for the one who you should befriend, first of all he should be the Muslim who believes in Allah (swt) and the Last Day and not a disbeliever, nor should you befriend those who disobey Allah (swt) and the evidence for this is the following Ayah, "You will not find a people who believe in Allah and the Last Day having affection for those who oppose Allah and His Messenger, even if they were their fathers or their sons or their brothers or their kindred..." [EMQ 58:22]

And the hadith, "You will be raised (on the day of judgement) with the one you love." [Bukhari]

Moreover, you should befriend the Muslims who remind you of Allah (swt) and your duty towards Him, those who encourage you to do good and forbid you from evil, those when you ask for advice, they give you advice from the Quran and Sunnah, those who do not backbite other Muslims nor do they swear and lie but rather choose the best words. They are those who remember the Ummah of Muhamm-

-ad (saw) much, talking about the affairs of the Muslims always and refrain from talking about matters that are of no benefit and they are those that have the best of manners.

Friendship based upon the Deen of Islam and for the sake of Allah (swt) is the best of bonds, whereas friendship based on materialistic bonds, such as status and wealth are of no benefit and will be a source of regret on the Day of Judgement, if your friends do not obey Allah (swt) and have no concern for Islam and the Muslims. The Messenger Muhammed said, "Whoever loves for the sake of Allah, hates for the sake of Allah, gives for the sake of Allah and withholds for the sake of Allah has completed his faith." [Abu Dawood]

And it has been said, "Nobody is given anything besides his Islam better than a righteous friend."

And Allah (swt) described the situation of friends on the day of judgement, "Friends on that Day will be enemies to each other except Al-Muttaqun(the pious)". [EMQ 43:67]

Therefore the friends you have and the environment you live in effects your belief and behaviour, for example, if you look to how many Muslims have been affected by living amongst Kuffar (disbelievers), to the extent that many Muslims have adopted their beliefs and customs. Therefore the effect a bad close friend or friends would have is even greater and friendships are based on mutual understanding and likes, for this reason choosing a good friend is very important and Muhammed (saw) said,"A man is on the Deen of his friend, so let every one of you choose whom to befriend." [Ahmad]